

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S PRESS COMMENTS ON USG
NARCOTICS AID

REFERENCES: A) MEXICO 3483; B) MEXICO 2472; C) MEXICO 4226

FOR AMBASSADOR JOVA FROM AMBASSADOR VANCE

1. WE ARE COMPLETELY PUZZLED AS TO POSSIBLE SOURCE OF
INFORMATION FOR STORY BY EXCELSIOR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT
ON GOM'S ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT. DISCUSSION HERE WITH CON-
CERNED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE AGENCIES AND OFFICES FOR U.S.
NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN MEXICO INDICATE NO INTERVIEWS TOOK PLACE
WITH EXCELSIOR CORRESPONDENT.

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2. STATEMENT MADE BY SENIOR ADVISER FOR INTERNATIONAL

NARCOTICS MATTERS ON MAY 6 TO FOREIGN OPERATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE INDICATED ONLY THAT THE U.S. WAS HAPPY TO ASSIST THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IN ITS ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION EFFORTS. STATEMENT FURTHER COMPLIMENTED THE PROGRESS AND EFFORTS OF THE GOM IN ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

THE REFERENCE TO A SUM OF 11.6 MILLION DOLLARS TO BE SPENT IN U.S. ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN FY 76 FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IS UNTRUE. WE ARE CARRYING 11.6 MILLION FOR OBLIGATIONS IN FY 75" WITH A TOTAL OF PROPOSED OBLIGATIONS OF 5.6 MILLION FOR FY 76. NO CASH PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN OR ARE PROPOSED IN THE MEXICAN PROGRAM. U.S. ASSISTANCE IN THE MAIN HAS BEEN, AS INDICATED BY OJEDA'S REPLIES TO QUESTIONS, IN EQUIPMENT (HELICOPTERS).

4. APPRECIATE COMMENT ON EFFECT OF PRESS ISSUE ON FORTH-COMING MEETING WITH OJEDA AND WE WILL CONSIDER APPROPRIATELY SENSITIVITY IN THE TALKS. INGERSOLL

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